

The Human Touch

Utah Department of
Human Services
120 N. 200 W.
Salt Lake City, 84103
801.538.4001
801.538.4016 Fax
hs.utah.gov



In This Issue:

- Centenarians p.2
- PWDNET p.3
- Leadership Academy p.4
- Postcards p.6
- Senior Activity Day p.8
- Training Tidbits p.9

And More!

Director's Message

The big challenge this month has been implementation of the Governor's new initiative - Working 4 Utah. Governor Huntsman has challenged all of us as state employees to embrace this somewhat revolutionary idea of working 4 ten-hour days, Monday through Thursday. Regular business hours will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. effective August 4, 2008.

I appreciate everyone pitching in to help this initiative succeed. The Governor has three key reasons for taking this step: 1) improve energy efficiency both in building costs and fuel costs, 2) improve customer service with on-line and extended hours options and 3) improve employee morale.

The Governor wanted me to let you know that he values public employees and the great work they do. He is hoping that this will help us work more intelligently and give us a better quality of life. I know that making one less trip into the office each week will certainly save on gas costs!

While DHS has been supportive, it is important to remember that some of our employees will not have the 4/10 option because some of our jobs are tied to public safety concerns that cannot be rescheduled. The safety and protection of our clients is always our first priority. Thank you for understanding if your workplace is not able to immediately implement the change.



Lisa-Michele Church
Executive Director

I have heard personally from many of you that have challenges with child care, elder care, transportation and second jobs. Believe me, I know that it is not always easy and we are trying to address these concerns as they arise. I have been a working mom for twenty years and I well understand that rearranging your family's schedule does not happen overnight. We did get a good solution to the holiday leave issue and you should keep checking the DHS website for updates on Frequently Asked Questions. I will keep you up to date as new information is available that might help you with any of these issues.

You are a great group of leaders and employees at DHS. I have every confidence that you will help us make the transition - where possible - in a responsible and positive manner. Thanks!

Centenarian Celebration: A Great Success

By Debbie Booth, Aging and Adult Services

Salt Lake City – Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services honored Utah's Centenarians on June 27. There are 155 known Centenarians in Utah and 50 of them attended the celebration held at the recently reopened Utah State Capital Rotunda. It was truly amazing to be among those who have witnessed 100 years or more of history. Governor and First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman visited with the centenarians and their families and presented each with a certificate, officially congratulating them for attending the celebration and achieving Centenarian status. "Never again will I speak to a group with more experience, history and wisdom," said Governor Huntsman. He noted they all had a common answer when asked about the se-



100 years ago...

- The average life expectancy was 47 years
- Only 8% of homes had a telephone
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph
- Average wage was 22 cents/hr
- The population of Las Vegas, NV was only 30
- More than 95% of all births took place at home
- Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school

cret to their longevity, "The word that came out time and time again –optimism, a sense that life is good and tomorrow is going to be even better, and despite the challenges and travails that you encounter, you remain optimistic." Pictures of the event can be accessed at:

www.governor.utah.gov/photos/

Aging and Adult Services staff work throughout the year to contact and compile information about the Centenarians. The information is then published in a "yearbook," containing pictures and short biographies, and can be accessed online at www.hsdaas.utah.gov.

New Course and Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies

By Lori Giovannoni, Services for People with Disabilities

University of Utah is offering a new graduate-level interdisciplinary course in Disability Studies. Disability Studies focus on how disability is defined and represented in society, in contrast to medical, clinical, or therapeutic perspectives. The course is part of a new graduate certificate in Disability Studies which provides opportunities for students to enhance their understanding of the social construction of disability. Students will learn strategies that support participation of individuals with disabilities in changing social structures, practices and policies.

The Interdisciplinary Course in Disability Studies is offered Fall semester on Wednesday evenings from 4:30 to 7:30 pm on the University of Utah

campus and begins August 27, 2008.

The Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies is open to students with a Bachelor's degree, some seniors and those already enrolled in a Master's program at the University. The Certificate offers courses from many different graduate programs on campus and students are able to choose those which are of most interest to them.

For requirements and further information contact the program advisor, Cathy Chambless, cathy.chambless@cpga.utah.edu or visit <http://www.hum.utah.edu/idstudies/index.php?pagelid=1919>





UV Safety Month

Submitted by Department of Health

We are all vulnerable to the harmful effects of the sun. Ultraviolet (UV) rays are invisible rays of light radiated from the sun and are at the greatest levels between the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Overexposure to the sun's UV rays can cause eye conditions such as cataracts, age-related macular degeneration and vision loss, as well as cause skin cancers, premature aging (wrinkles, thicker skin), and skin discoloration. July is UV Safety Month, so take this time to learn about how you can protect your skin and eyes from the sun's damaging UV rays:

- Cover up. Wear sunglasses, a brimmed hat, and tightly woven, loose-fitting and full-length clothing when outdoors.
- When choosing sunglasses, make sure they block 99 to 100 percent of UV-A and UV-B rays. But don't be deceived by color or cost. The ability to block UV light is not dependent on the darkness of the lens or the price tag. Expensive sunglasses do not necessarily provide more UV protection. A \$10 pair of sunglasses could have more protection than a \$100 pair. Also, the darkness of the lens doesn't indicate the UV protection, rather it's the chemicals added during the lens making process that determine the amount of UV protection.

- Don't forget about the kids! Make them wear sunglasses and hats when in the sun as well.
- Limit your time in the midday sun, since the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Seek shade. Staying under cover is a good way to protect yourself from the sun.
- Always use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher. Reapply it every 2 hours when working or playing outdoors.
- Use the EPA's SunWise UV Index to determine how to protect yourself from the sun each day. The index is found at: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html>

Save your skin and your eyes by using these tips when you're outdoors. Have a fun and safe summer and remember to use protection against the sun!

People with Disabilities Network Job Postings (PWDNET)

By Leah Lobato, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and Robert Snarr, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Utah Department of Human Services is currently involved with the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, which funds numerous initiatives designed to assist people with disabilities obtain employment opportunities. One of these initiatives is PWDNET which involves a network of local, regional and national companies who have made the commitment to hire and retain individuals with disabilities. Network employers are provided training and education and are dedicated to hiring and retaining people with disabilities.

PWDNET also assists individuals with disabilities in connecting with disability friendly employers. Individuals with disabilities can access jobs posted by PWDNET Network Employers by going

to the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation website, www.usor.utah.gov. Once on the website consumers may access job postings by clicking on the USOR Employer Network Listings link. Postings are organized by date and can be sorted (alphabetically, by location or starting salary) by clicking on any blue header.

A job fair will be held on Tuesday, October 28 at The Sanderson Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 5709 South 1500 West, Taylorsville. Various PWDNET Network employers will be there to assist individuals with disabilities in exploring employment opportunities. For more information on PWDNET or the Job Fair, contact Leah Lobato, USOR Employer Relations Specialist, (801) 538-7964, leahlobato@utah.gov.



Free Educational Opportunity

By Gerald Brown, Department of Workforce Services

Utah Humanities Council is now accepting applications for the Venture course in the Humanities. Venture is a free educational opportunity where adult students will explore art history, literature, American history, philosophy and critical writing. College and University professors instruct the small group of adult learners and, upon successful completion of the two semester college-level course, students earn eight credit hours from Westminster College.

Venture is taught September through April on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

at Horizonte Instruction and Training Center (1234 Main Street, Salt Lake City). Tuition, books, child care and transportation are all provided – free of charge.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years old, low income and able to read a newspaper in English. Applications will be accepted until the course is full.

For more information call 801-359-9670 or visit

www.utahhumanities.org/Venture.htm

1st Annual DHS Leadership Academy

By Angelique Colemere, Executive Director's Office

Salt Lake City – Sixty of the best and brightest employees attended the first session of the DHS Leadership Academy on July 10. The Academy was created to provide an opportunity for some of the Department's rising and valuable "stars" to consider the possibilities of leadership in the field of Human Services.

During the first session, Executive Director Lisa-Michele Church discussed various qualities of a leader and was assisted by Deputy Directors Mark Ward and Marie Christman, who provided insight into working in a leadership position. The class debated how numerous qualities such as decision making or accepting criticism could help or hurt leaders at DHS. Participants were asked to identify personal contributions they could add to the Department and DHS leaders explained some of the benefits of choosing a Human Services career. Charri Brummer, Deputy Director of Child and Family Services participated in the initial session. "I really enjoyed it," said Brummer, "It is an exciting opportunity for people to further their goals whether it is within government work or in the public sector." Travis Erickson, Adult Protective Services Southeast Region Supervisor,



utah department of
human services



also attended. "It helped me to consider the different qualities between leaders and managers," Erickson stated, "which motivated me to enhance my leadership abilities."

The Academy will continue meeting every other month and will cover a variety of topics, including Media Strategy, Legislative Relations, Finance Issues and Employment Law. Employees selected to attend receive a binder containing many of the leadership tips used by the DHS Executive Leadership Team and many other materials. Office of Recovery Services (ORS) staff expressed such great interest in the Academy that a special session is scheduled to be held, specifically for ORS leaders, later this year.

NOMINATE TODAY!

Just another friendly reminder to nominate fellow employees for the prestigious Executive Director's Awards for 2008. There is a new Cultural Excellence Award, along with the Executive Director's Award, Supervisor of the Year and Career Achievement Award.

Department of Human Services Executive Director's Awards 2008

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Recognizes a DHS employee who has demonstrated exceptional job performance, community service and character.

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a DHS supervisor who promotes the value and critical role of front-line supervision across the department.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes a DHS employee whose contributions, efforts, and dedication demonstrates a career of integrity and excellence that promotes the Department's mission and values. DHS employees who have at least 20 years of service as of December 31, 2008 are eligible.

****NEW CATEGORY ****

CULTURAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Recognizes a DHS employee who has demonstrated excellent effort in cultural outreach within their job duties.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Nominations accepted **July 1 thru July 31**
- Awards will be presented at the Annual Executive Director's Awards Luncheon, September 29, 2008
- For information contact Angie Colemere, Communications Liaison, acolemer@utah.gov or 801-538-4275
- Full nomination criteria at http://www.hsemployees.utah.gov/pdf/announcement_nominations_2008.pdf

**Nominations
open July 1-31**

P o s t c a r d s f r o m 2 0 0 7 H o n o r e e s



Diane Maciel
a.k.a. Supervisor of the Year 2007

What is the best part of your job?

The two things that jump forward to me are the people I get to work with on the Children's Unit and seeing the kids that come here return to live in the community with a good chance at success.

Where is best place to eat in your city?

Los Hermanos

What is your favorite book?

I'm going to have to choose a book that I use in therapy with children "The Hottest Boy Who Ever Lived" by Anna Fienberg

Where would you travel if you could go anywhere in the world?

I would go to Argentina and spend a couple of months there.



Steve Wrigley
a.k.a. Career Achievement Award Winner 2007

What is the best part of your job?

I love the People!! I love working with our staff and the individuals with disabilities and their families.

Where is best place to eat in your city?

I have a family of seven. Trying to find a place where we all can agree upon is almost impossible. Though it may not be the best food in town.... Sweet Tomatoes has something for all of us.

What is your favorite book?

This is difficult to answer as I read three to four books per month. I love book on leadership and self improvement. John C. Maxwell is my favorite author.

Where would you travel if you could go anywhere in the world?

I love the mountains and outdoors. I would love to spend some time in the Alaska wilderness.

Working 4 Utah

August 4th is just around the corner! The new of-
fice hours for many employees will then change to:
Monday - Thursday, 7am-6pm

There continue to be questions and ongoing up-
dates regarding this transition. Please refer to the
employee website, www.hsemployees.utah.gov for
the latest information on this exciting initiative.





The Human Touch

Postcards from 2007 Honorees



Ginny Geary
a.k.a Executive Director's Award Winner
2007

What is the best part of your job?

Resolving problems for Custodial and Non-Custodial parents; helping them understand our process and give them some control by getting them involved on our website so they can review their case and see how the payments posted.

Where is the best place to eat in your town?

Rio Grande Cafe at the Railroad Station on 400 W and 300 S in SLC. Excellent Mexican food and reasonable.

What is your favorite book?

Co-Dependent No More (helped me through a lot of rough times).

If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?

Tuscany (Italy)



Tuscany Italy



Ella Loveland a.k.a Employee of the Year 2007

What do you enjoy most about your job? I enjoy working with caseworkers, supervisors, and the families we work with. I absolutely enjoy watching workers learn and gain ideas that excite them. I also enjoy watching families do likewise. A part of this is the joy of watching people grow in what ever their roles are.

What is the best place to eat in your town? My favorite place to eat depends on what I'm in the mood for. I enjoy a variety of cuisine, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Mexican, American Traditional, Italian, Indian, Polynesian, etc. Some of my favorite places include Baja, Charlie Chow, La Frontera, Tres Homres, Star of India, Mazza, Jim's Restuarant, Coachmans, Rumbis, Rubio, etc.

What is your favorite book? I love books. I enjoy reading all kinds of topics. My favorite Classic is Jane Eyer. My favorite Shakspeare is Ceaser. My favorite history book is, typically, what I am reading at the moment. Right now I'm reading a book on World War II involving the Allied invasion into North Africa. The author is on the best selling list. I've enjoyed Newberry Book Winners including both of Richard Peck's books, Holes, and Maniac McGee. I devoured all of the Harry Potter books. My favorite Author is James Michener. For fiction, some of my favorite books have been To Kill a Mockingbird, My Name is Ashle Levi, and The Thorn Bird. I've enjoyed books written by Jonathan Kellerman, Nevada Barr, Patrica Cornwell, etc. I've also enjoyed reading thought provoking books like Facity, Thoughts on Dying, by Steve Andreas, and Dyer's book on Taoism. I have over a hundred favorite books in the real of therapy (which is what I do). I do enjoy reading interesting stories about nature, animals, and the world. I enjoy reading scientific journals as well.

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go? I would travel to places where I could be inspired. I've wanted to visit the Great Wall of China (for the history, for the wonder of both the wall and the surrounding ambience), the Seringetti in Africa (for the wild life, the environment, and to get a gleam of what life is like for those who live there), South America (to see the Aztec ruins, and to get a sense of what life is like in the Amazon areas), Australia (to see the Great Barrier Reef as well as the flavor of the people there), Europe (to see the Alps, to enjoy the history and culture, to look at great art, to get a sense of the history of World War I and II), and to travel to each of the fifty states, especially Alaska.

Senior Western Activity Day

By Sabine Jolley, Aging and Adult Services

Panguitch – Over 100 seniors and their families participated in the Panguitch Seniors Western Activity Day on July 7. Much of the success of the event is credited to Adult Protective Services Investigator Susan Swapp and her coordination with Senior Center Directors from Beaver, Garfield, Kane and Iron Counties.

"Cowboy" themed entertainment was provided, including a country singer, line dancing lessons and humorous and poignant cowboy poetry. Seniors were "pampered" with massages, manicures and free lunch. Many compliments were given by attendees such as, "this was the best activity I have ever been to", "the cowboy theme makes me feel right at home" and "when are we going to do this again?" Multiple community partners donated time, resources, and staff (on-hand to disseminate resource information to seniors and their families), making the event a wonderful memory for all who attended.

This event is one example of how our frontline workers often exceed normal job responsibilities and expectations to ensure our clients are supported within the community. Promoting and maintaining positive public relations in the



community and giving back to our foundation, the senior citizens.

Community partners included Zion Way Hospice, Garfield County, 5-County Association of Government, Emerald Point, Garfield Intermountain Health Care, Garfield County Sheriff Department, Bernard Foods, Iron County Senior Volunteer Program, Beaver County, Adult Protective Services and Gentiva.

Public Employee Salute

By Lynette Willie, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Utah State Hospital, Provo – Susan Hendy is one of this month's recipients of the Public Employee Salute Award. Her award was announced on the Doug Wright Show, KSL 1160 AM, on July 2nd. Hendy has served our community for over 20 years and is currently an Administrative Director at Utah State Hospital (USH). Hendy was nominated for her incredible leadership skills and dedication to staff and patients at USH. Recognition was given for her wisdom and outstanding judgment, resulting in the best solutions for patients, employees and tax payers. In honor of her accomplishments, Hendy received Hale Center Theater tickets and an invitation to the Quarterly Salute Recognition Luncheon.

The Public Employee Salute Award is sponsored by Utah Public Employee's Association in conjunction with Mountain America Credit Union. All public employees (with the exception of teachers) are eligible for the award and announcements are made weekly. For more information or to submit a nomination contact Todd Sutton at 1-800-224-8732 ext. 209, or go online to www.upea.net/salute.cfm



Susan Hendy



Training Tidbits

Proper training is essential to best serving our consumers. Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:

Designated Examiner Training

July 29, 2008

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information contact Susan Hardinger, 801-538-4367 or shardinger@utah.gov

17th Annual Domestic Violence Council Conference

September 16-19, 2008

Salt Palace Convention Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.udvc.org>.

American Indian Wellness Conference

"Sunrise to Sunset: Health Across the Lifespan"

September 30, 2008

Davis Convention Center

Layton, Utah

For more information or to register, contact Ais Murray, 801-538-3912, amurray@utah.gov.

HELP WANTED

Are you aware of a training or conference that we don't have listed in the Human Touch or online?

If so, please notify Angelique Colemere, ACOLEMER@utah.gov 801-538-4275.

You may also submit events online on the department training calendars, www.hstraining.utah.gov.

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

Utah State Developmental Center Fall Conference

October 1, 2008

Utah State Developmental Center

American Fork, Utah

For additional information contact Dan Chase, 801-763-4261, dchase@utah.gov.

Utah Fall Substance Abuse Conference

October 1-3, 2008

Davis Conference Center

Layton, Utah

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.utahsamh.com/>

National Drug Endangered Children Conference

October 6-8, 2008

Radisson Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information or to register, visit the website, <http://nationaldec.org/Conference/conference.htm#2007Conf>

Brain Injury Association of Utah 19th Annual Family and Professionals Conference

October 9-10, 2008

Davis Conference Center

Layton, Utah

For more information go to www.biau.org

Critical Issues Facing Children & Adolescents

November 13-14, 2008

Hilton – Salt Lake City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information call 801-501-9446.

Editor in Chief:

Lisa-Michele Church

Production Editors:

Angelique Colemere

Jared Sweeten

Elizabeth Sollis

Rich Rayl

The Human Touch is published monthly